



**Director of  
Central  
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# **National Intelligence Daily**

***Saturday  
24 July 1982***

**Top Secret**

***CPAS NID 82-172JX***

***24 July 1982***

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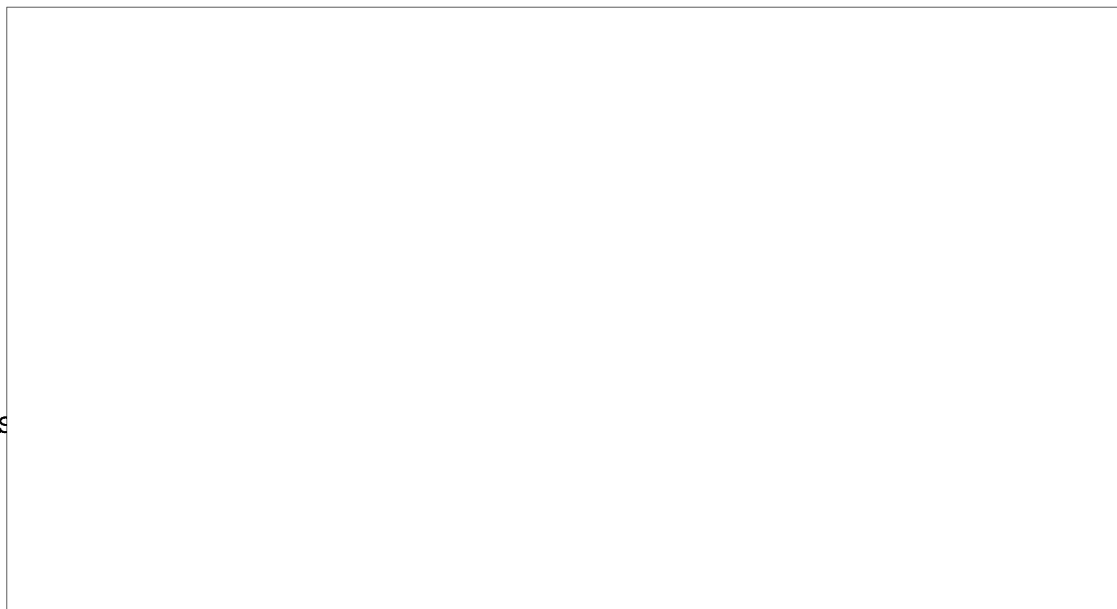
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③ ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA: Stalemate in Fighting

*Fighting along the Ethiopian-Somali border is at an impasse, but political maneuvering among Somali dissident groups has increased.*

Despite Ethiopian air superiority, Somali troops have stopped the combined Ethiopian and insurgent drive on Galcaio. The burden of the attack there reportedly is being carried by the Ethiopian- and Libyan-sponsored Somali Salvation Democratic Front. The largely Ethiopian force near Balenbale has not been challenged by the Somalis, but it is not trying to expand its area of control.

The Front is trying to capitalize on its involvement in the Goldogob incursion to dominate negotiations for a merger with the more popular but militarily less powerful Somali National Movement. The Movement, which does not receive much Ethiopian or Libyan aid, has only been able to stage brief raids into northern Somalia since the fighting resumed.

Comment: Somalia's success in slowing the advance on Galcaio could be short lived if Addis Ababa commits more of its own forces to the fighting. For now, however, Ethiopia probably prefers to let the insurgents lead drives that are likely to result in heavy casualties.

Somali forces, which are being stretched thin by the need to guard against further incursions, cannot drive out the Ethiopians. Mogadishu's best chance probably lies in launching local counterattacks to raise the cost of Addis Ababa's continuing occupation of Somali territory.

The political friction between the Front and the Movement is unlikely to affect the course of the conflict. Nonetheless, it underscores the deep tribal and personal differences among the groups trying to overthrow President Siad.

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Approved For Release 2007/09/13 : CIA-RDP84T00301R000400010049-0

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